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September 18, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 615F
Washington D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am a small business owner in Mesa Arizona, who will likely be forced to discontinue service to 6,800 hearing impaired patients if the currently proposed FDA rule is approved. The proposed rule change will invoke a tremendous barrier to our profession. I have been privileged to serve thousands of hearing impaired people for over 41 years. I am also a World War II veteran who needs to wear hearing instruments, and live on a limited income.

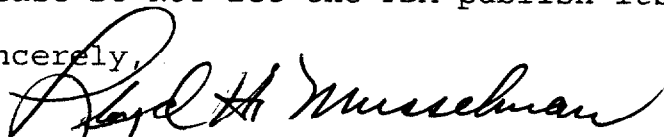
I am extremely concerned that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reportedly advocating changes to the current hearing aid regulations that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care and reduce access to hearing health care Board Certified providers.

Please, please take the time to consider the impact of this proposed hearing aid rule on the nation's hearing-impaired and on the nation's small business hearing health care providers, as required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness (SBREFA).

Hearing health care providers like me, have been working with the FDA since 1993 to streamline the current FDA hearing aid regulations. Now, just weeks before the election of a new Administration, FDA is rushing to put forth a proposal that could eliminate hearing aid specialists like me from the marketplace. FDA's change reportedly favors allowing each state to determine the conditions for dispensing hearing aids. This will create inconsistency and confusion and will launch a 50-state effort by clinical audiologists to install themselves as the sole gatekeepers to hearing health care without any medical or health policy justification.

Please DO NOT let the FDA publish its proposed hearing aid rule.

Sincerely,



Lloyd M. Musselman, Office Manager. BC-HIS
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
Arizona Department of Health License #1094

LHM:wp

copy: International Hearing Society, Board of Directors

93N-0372

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Board Certified Specialist Since 1963 - Over 40 Years Personal Experience
NO COMPROMISE FOR QUALITY, STATE-OF-THE-ART, OR EXPERIENCE

ABC HEARING AID SERVICE IS "HEAR" FOR YOU!

ABC Hearing Aid Service has faithfully served the hearing impaired population of our East Valley for over 20 years.

A former owner, *MATT BURAK* (pictured to the right), author and co-founder of **NU-EAR Electronics**, manufacturer of some of the finest hearing instruments in the world, is also a hearing aid specialist. He is currently the president of a retail organization which dispenses hearing aids in four southwestern states. He is in his thirty-eighth year as a member of the hearing aid industry. He has written a number of articles on hearing correction including technical data for publication in hearing industry publications.

LLOYD MUSSELMAN (shown below), current owner of **ABC Hearing Aid Service**, is one of the most experienced Hearing Instrument Specialists you will meet. His vast experience includes testing, selecting, fitting and servicing of hearing instruments for over 40 years. He was certified in 1963 by the former Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists, now the International Hearing Society. He has tested patients for medical doctors in their E.E.N.T. offices for over 30 years and has always been on the cutting edge of State-Of-The-Art technology in the industry.

A visit to the ABC office will give you the opportunity to be served by friendly, professionally trained, licensed specialists. You will be greeted by friendly staff members, which now include our newest licensed specialist, *LORIN RIUTTA*. You will be served by the use of the latest and most technologically advanced equipment available. Our slogan is a quote from the scripture, "**He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**"

Let us help you HEAR.

People Helping People... Communicate



A precious moment to be savored. How wonderful to know that your grandchild will possess an enduring sense of family...that you were able to communicate this warm feeling of belonging. Helping You to communicate is NU-EAR's only reason for being.



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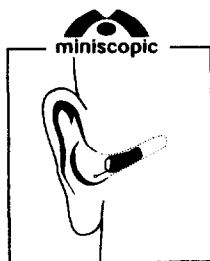


Lloyd Musselman

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